CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT The Maximilianshütte in Unterwellenborn

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. The Maxhuette in Unterwellenborn, vic. Saalfeld, Thuringia, is the only blast furnace plant in the Soviet Zone, and hence it is very much overtaxed.

2. The plant consists of four blast furnaces, three with a capacity of 350 cubic meters, and one with a capacity of 250 cubic meters. There are three pairs of blast heaters (Winderhitzpaare) and three blowers, each with a pressure of one atmosphere. The equipment is entirely sufficient because normally only three of the furnaces are in operation, since each furnace remains active for five years and the rebuilding process takes about two years. The average annual production was 300,000 tons of steel. It was processed via three plants, a Thomas-steel plant, a rolling mill, and a pressing plant.

3. In the last few years the production has decreased by about 60 per cent. The principal reasons therefor are (1) the blowers have been now in operation uninterruptedly for over eight years, (2) there have been considerable irregularities in the supply of coke, ore and scrap. The DWK has repeatedly reprimanded the plant for its low output.

4. The management of the plant counters the reprimands with the declaration that the decreasing quality of raw materials delivered (abnehmende Stueckigkeit des Beschickungsmaterials) lowers the pressure of the blast, which is already down to one half atmosphere in the blower, and to one quarter atmosphere in the furnace, by another 40 per cent. In addition, only 60 per cent of the available gas can, at this time, be utilized, while 40 per cent has to be blown into the air. At times no ore at all is available and the metal input consists entirely of scrap. Such ore as is available, from the nearby mines, is of low quality because the mines, to meet their own inflated production quota, fail to cull their production sufficiently. The same is true of coke deliveries. Yet the plant is ordered to use all materials delivered.

5. Since 1 July 1949 some measures to reach the previous production of 300,000 tons per year have been taken. These are as follows:

(a) The small furnace has been enlarged by 20 per cent.
(b) The addition of another pair of blast heaters (Winderhitzerpaar) and another

blower has been planned. (One blower was completed in July 1949 and is in operation.)

(c) The rebuilding process for furnaces has been speeded up from two years to four to five months, so that now all four furnaces are in operation simultaneously and will remain so until 1953.

(d) Construction of an iron sintering plant was started. It is to eliminate the high proportion of fine consistency in the input material which results from a greater use of ore.

(e) The operation of four furnaces necessitates a circulation of 3500 cubic meters (924,630 U.S. gals.) of water, with an hourly loss of 420 cubic meters (111,000 U.S. gals.). When the operation of four furnaces was ordered, no one took into consideration that the existing water supply was insufficient to replace the additional loss of water. Hence, serious difficulties were encountered when in September 1949 the moulds began to burn out. A large number of students and school children were mobilized to build a new waterline from the Saale river to the plant. It was completed in three months. Even though, no further difficulties of that nature are anticipated, the annual production rate was seriously affected in the meantime.

3. **The greatest difficulties are encountered by the DDR in its attempts to procure turbo blowers. None are under construction and suitable ones are available in the Western Zones only.**